

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-20 HA-05 IO-14 /117 W

-----033608 121709Z /43

P 121430Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1179

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM PRIORITY

CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IL PRIORITY

21 AF MCGUIRE AFB NJ PRIORITY

AMAMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 2566

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LOME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUMBUMBASHI PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB GER PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 1586

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MASS, CG, GB

SUBJECT: DEPARTURE OF GABONESE TROOPS FOR SHABA

REF: LIBREVILLE 1554

1. FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF GABONESE CONTINGENT TO SHABA
NIGHT OF JUNE 10-11, GABONESE MEDIA HAVE BEEN GIVING THE
EVENT FULL PLAY. FRONT PAGE STORY IN LOCAL DAILY L'UNION
JUNE 12 IS TYPICAL.

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2. ACCORDING L'UNIONN ZFIRST" DETACHMENT OF GABONESE
PARATROOPERS WHO PART OF "PANAFRICAN" FORCE FOR ZAIRE LEFT
LIBREVILLE FOR ZAIRE NIGHT OF JUNE 11 ABOARD US AIR FORCE
C-141. DETACHMENT COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN ESSONO NDONG.
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF GABONESE ARMED FORCES, GENERAL BA OUMAR
AND AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WERE THERE TO SEE THEM OFF.

3. ACCORDING "OFFICIAL SOURCE" (NOT US) FLIGHT WOULD TAKE
FOUR HOURS AND AFTER ARRIVAL LUMBUMBASHI, DETACHMENT WOULD
TAKE UP POSITIONS UNDER AN AS YET UNDETERMINED UNIFIED
COMMAND IN THE CITY WHERE 2ND FRENCH R.E.P. (REGIMENT
ETRANGER DE PARACHUTISTES) WAS STATIONED AFTER "ITS RAID ON
KOLWEZI". GABONESE WILL JOIN THEIR MORROCCAN BROTHERS -
SOME 1500 - WHILE EQUIVALENT OF SENEGALESE BATTALION WAS
EXPECTED ON SUNDAY (JUNE 11) ALSO ABOARD US AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT.
OTHER CONTINGENTS ARE EXPECTED SOON FROM TOGO, IVORY COAST AND
CAE.MISSION OF THESE TROOPS RESULTS FROM APPEAL FOR "AFRICAN
SOLIDARITY" BY PRES BONGO AT BEGINNING OF SHABA
HOSTILITIES.TIENKEN

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